

GODMANCHESTER

Urban District Council.

REPORT

UPON THE SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

Borough of Godmanchester

FOR THE YEAR 1913.

BY


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Medical Officer of Health.

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TO THE
GODMANCHESTER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

Godmanchester is a Borough situate on the south side of the river Ouse, with an area of 4,659 acrrs. The Borough proper is located on the banks of the river with many straggling streets and lanes, and spreading over a considerable acreage, flanked on the East and West by extensive commons, which are at times flooded.

The rising ground on the Southern side of the Borough is dotted with farm-houses and homesteads. The soil of the Borough proper is gravel, and that of the higher ground Oxford Clay.

Population 2135.

It is a purely agricultural district. A flour Mill is the only manufactory of any size in the Borough.

House accommodation for the labouring classes is of a mixed character. The old thatched cottages are gradually being re-placed by more modern dwelling-houses, and the house accommodation is generally improving. There is plenty of open space about the houses, the cleanliness of the surroundings in some places is not of a high class, the yards being imperfectly paved and gravelled. The gravelling of the yards shows some improvement.

Poor Law Medical relief is utilized to a fair extent, principally amongst the older inhabitants, also the Huntingdon County Hospital is used both by Out and In-door patients.

Water Supply.

Water is obtained from shallow wells sunk in the gravel of the Ouse valley ; this is liable to pollution. Notices have been posted on all the pumps advising the inhabitants to boil their water before using it for drinking purposes.

Rivers and Streams.

The effluent of the Sewers runs into the River Ouse after having travelled about a mile and a half, very little solid matter passes through the drains, as it is carted out of the Borough.

Drainage and Sewerage.

There is a complete system of sewerage and drainage with a thorough system of flusing at the distal end of each sewer.

There are 500 pail and Tub closets and 35 water closets.

Very little foecal matter passes through the sewers.

Scavenging.

Refuse is carted out of the Borough by the the staff of the Corporation and disposed of in a distant field remote from any chance of water contamination.

Inspections.

In December last I made a general inspection of the district, accompanied by your Inspector of Nuisances. I have made other Inspections when diseases and nuisances existed to which my attention had been called.

Nuisance Inspection is embodied in the Sanitary Officer's Report, *vide* page 14.

Lodging House, &c

One registered Lodging House, the Slaughter Houses, Bakehouses (all above ground), Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops and Factories (of which only one now exists, a Flour Mill, are regularly visited by the Inspector.

Housing.

At the present time there is no scarcity of houses in the district.

Two cases of overcrowding have been dealt with. Three new houses have been built during the year.

102 houses were inspected and minor defects found in 36, all of which were remedied.

Schools.

The Schools are visited by the Sanitary Inspector.

Medical Inspection of School Children is carried out by the County Medical Officer of Health.

Milk Supply.

The milk supply is wholesome. Three samples were sent for analysis during the year and all found genuine. The Dairies and Cowsheds are generally in good condition, and there are many acres of commons and grazing land which is conducive to the healthiness of the cows. One case of Tuberculosis amongst cows was discovered and the animal slaughtered.

There is no arrangement for Veterinary Inspection of Cows.

Food Supply.

Two samples of whisky, three of milk, three of butter and one of cheese were sent for analysis, and all found to be genuine.

No Carcases were condemned for Tuberculosis.

Infectious and other Diseases.

A slight outbreak of Measles occurred in May, no death occurred.

Three cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, the origin of which could not be ascertained.

Whooping Cough was prevalent in the early part of the year, the Infants' School was closed from January 16th to February 10th. No deaths occurred.

Isolation Hospital.

No Isolation Hospital has been provided. I hope your Authority may see your way to make arrangements for the treatment of Infectious Diseases at the Huntingdon Isolation Hospital.

Disinfection.

Disinfection is carried out by your Inspector principally by means of the Formic Aldehyde Lamp.

Antitoxin is stored at the Police Station, Huntingdon, and can always be obtained at short notice.

Tuberculosis

Eight cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and one of Tuberculosis of the Sacrum were notified during the year. The patients were visited and instructed as to the mode of procedure. Two patients were sent away for Sanatorium Treatment and received much benefit. Spitting flasks are provided. In case of death from Tuberculosis the houses are disinfected.

Births and Deaths.

During the year the births of 42 children have been registered, 20 males and 22 females. An average of 19·6 per 1000 persons living.

The deaths of 27 persons residing in the Borough, and of two persons belonging to the district in the County Hospital, two in the Union Workhouse, and one at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge were registered, making a total of 32, an average of 14·9 per 1000 persons living. Of these deaths six were over 80 years of age.

Infantile Mortality.

Three children died under one year of age. The Notification of Birth Acts is not in force.

Mortuary.

A public Mortuary exists.

I append Table 1, Vital Statistics of the whole District and previous years.

Table 2 of Infectious Diseases notified during the year.

Table 3, Causes of, and ages at death during the year.

Table 4, Infantile Mortality during the year.

The Factory and Workshops Report.

And the Sanitary Inspector's Reports.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your faithful Servant,

HERBERT LUCAS,

*Medical Officer of Health,
Godmanchester Urban District Council.*

HUNTINGDON,

February 24th, 1914.

TABLE 1.—GODMANCHESTER URBAN DISTRICT.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Un-corrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.*	Of Non-Residents registered in the District.	Of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 year of age.		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.*					Number.	Rate per 1000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.*
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.
1908	2017		49	24.2	21	10.6		5	3	55.5	26	12.3
1909	2017		42	20.8	28	13.3		5	3	71.4	33	16.3
1910	2017		49	24.2	24	11.0		5	5	89.2	29	14.3
1911	2135	50	50	23.4	25	11.7	3	4	3	60.0	26	12.1
1912	2135	44	46	21.5	15	7.4	0	2	3	65.2	17	7.9
1913	2135	42	42	19.6	28	13.1	1	5	3	70.1	32	14.9

* Rates calculated per 1000 of estimated Population.

Area of District in Acres
(exclusive of area covered by water)

4659

Total population at all ages ... 2135
Number of Inhabited houses... .. 533
Average number of persons per house 4.0

At Census of 1911

TABLE II.—Godmanchester Urban District.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1913.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN ALL DISTRICTS.							
	At Ages †—Years.							Total Cases remov- ed to Hos- pital.
	At all Ages.	Under 1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and up- wards	
Erysipelas ...	2				1	1		
Scarlet Fever ...	3		3					
Puerperal Fever	1				1			
Pulmonary Tuberculosis...	8		1	2	1	4		
Other forms of Tuberculosis...	1					1		
TOTAL ...	15		4	2	3	6		

Isolation Hospital or Hospitals—None.

Sanatoria, &c.—None.

TABLE III.—Godmanchester Urban District.

Causes of, and ages at, Deaths during the Year, 1913.

CAUSE OF DEATHS.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of "residents" whether occurring in or beyond the district.								
	All Ages	Under 1 Year	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and up- wards
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
All causes :									
Certified ...	32								
Uncertified ...									
Influenza ...	1								1
Phthisis ...	3						2	1	
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	2							2	
Cancer, malignant disease ...	2								2
Organic Heart Disease	3								3
Bronchitis ...	6	3		1					2
Pneumonia ...	1								1
Puerperal Fever ...	1						1		
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide ...	3				2			1	
Suicide ...	1						1		
Other Defined Diseases	9						1	1	7
TOTALS ...	32	3		1	2		5	5	16

**Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1913,
for the Urban District of Godmanchester**
on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act,
1901, in connection with
Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces & Homework.

1.—INSPECTIONS.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector or
Inspector of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	6	Nil.	Nil.
Workplaces (including Workshops Laundries)	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Workplaces		Nil.	Nil.
Homeworkers' Premises ...	Nil.		
Total	6	—	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			
	Found.	Remedied.	Referee to H.M. Inspector.	Number of Prosecutions.
	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

3. Home work.—Nil.
4. Registered Workshop & Bakehouses.—5.
5. Other Matters.—Nil.

Ten Years Fatal Cases of:

Year.	Cancer.	Phthisis and Tubercular Disease.
1904	3	5
1905	4	4
1906	2	4
1907	3	2
1908	0	0
1909	3	2
1910	2	1
1911	1	2
1912	0	0
1913	2	5
	20	25

GODMANCHESTER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Sanitary Inspector's Report.

No. of Inspections made	...	...	...	141
Notices served	...	...	...	40
Informal	39.	Statutory	1.	
Privy, Urinal, Cesspool, Ashpit—Inspected	...			102
Nuisances abated	...	...	...	8
Houses overcrowded	...	...	...	2
Remedied	...	...	...	2
Offensive accumulation...	...	...	...	1
Abated	...	...	...	1
No. Licensed Lodging Houses	...	...	...	1
Inspections	...	...	...	6
Slaughterhouses not licensed	...	...	...	1
Inspections	...	...	...	2
Houses affected with Infectious Diseases	...			7
Ditto disinfected	...	...	...	7
New provided Ash Bins	...	...	...	50
Ash Pits converted to Ash Bins	...	...	...	6

Housing and Town Planning Report.

Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910.

No. of Dwelling-houses inspected	...	...	102
Total number of Inspections	...	...	112
No. of the above-named inspections in which the Designated Officer was accompanied by the M.O.H.	...	...	3
No. of Dwelling-houses in which defects were found			36

No. of Dwelling-houses in which defects were rectified (i.e. made fit for human habitation, without recourse to Closing Orders ...	36
No. of Dwelling-houses Demolished ...	3

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders.

No in District ...	23
No. Registered ...	21
No. of Inspections of Premises ...	10
No. of Inspections during Milking Time...	2
No of Premises requiring Whitewashing, Cleansing, &c. ...	2
No. in which requirements of Sanitary Authority were carried out ...	2
Regulations have been adopted.	

C. MAYFIELD,
Sanitary Inspector.

